

The Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act will encourage the sharing of knowledge and working together to create solutions. This bill does not give companies liability protection for their products or services. Rather, for a limited time it will provide adjusted procedures for the exchange of Year 2000 information. This is our best bet to ensuring that services and products will continue operating after midnight on December 31, 1999.

This bill also includes a provision I proposed that will assist consumers, small businesses and local governments. It charters a national information clearinghouse and website as a starting point to provide rapid and accurate information about solving Y2K problems. This will be a needed tool for small businesses, local governments and citizens so they can prepare for the millennium.

I want to thank the President and Vice President for their foresight in this issue, and the corporate leaders who worked together with us to get this done. Major industries—from telecommunications, electric, computer, transportation, energy, health, insurance and many others—pitched in and listened to each other and worked together. I congratulate and thank Senators for their unanimous support for this measure. It is reassuring to know that even in the midst of other dramas, Congress can come together to tackle fundamental issues confronting our national economy and security. I look forward to the President signing this important legislation.

#### NEXT GENERATION INTERNET RESEARCH ACT OF 1998

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that last night the Senate took up and passed H.R. 3332.

I first introduced my domain name study bill, S. 1727, on March 6, 1998. It was cosponsored by Senator ASHCROFT on May 21, 1998 and passed the Senate on June 26, 1998 as an amendment to S. 1609, Senate legislation to authorize the Next Generation Internet program. The House passed a very similar domain name study bill on September 14, 1998 as part of H.R. 3332, its legislation to authorize the Next Generation Internet program. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported out a substitute amendment to S. 1727 on September 17, 1998 that was identical to the domain name study language that is in H.R. 3332. Now, with the Senate passage of H.R. 3332, the domain name study language will be presented to the President for his signature into law.

The Leahy/Ashcroft domain name study legislation that is incorporated into H.R. 3332 authorizes the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of the effects on trademark rights of adding new generic top level domain names (gTLDs), and related dispute resolution procedures.

When I first introduced this bill in March, it was, in part, a response to the Administration's Green Paper released on January 30, 1988, on the domain name system (DNS), which suggested the addition of five new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs).

Although adding new gTLDs, as the Green Paper proposed, would allow more competition and more individuals and businesses to obtain addresses that more closely reflect their names and functions, I was concerned as were many businesses, that the increase in gTLDs would make the job of protecting their trademarks from infringement or dilution more difficult. In addition, increasing the number of gTLDs without an efficient dispute resolution mechanism had the potential of fueling litigation and the threat of litigation, with an overall chilling effect on the choice and use of domain names.

The Green Paper properly raised the important questions of how to protect consumers' interests in locating the brand or vendor of their choice on the Internet without being deceived or confused, how to protect companies from having their brand equity diluted in an electronic environment, and how to resolve disputes efficiently and inexpensively. It did not, however, answer these complex and important questions. Dictating the introduction of new gTLDs without analyzing the impact that these new gTLDs would have on trademark rights and related dispute resolution procedures seemed like putting the cart before the horse.

The Leahy/Ashcroft domain name study bill is intended to put the horse back before the cart. We should understand the effects on trademark rights of adding new gTLDs and related dispute resolution procedures before we move to add significant numbers of new gTLDs. Since its introduction in March, groups such as ATT, Bell Atlantic, Time Warner, the International Trademark Association, the Information Technology Industry Council, the Motion Picture Association of America, the Domain Name Rights Coalition, and the American Intellectual Property Law Association, amongst others, have endorsed this legislation reflected in the Leahy-Ashcroft domain name study bill.

The Administration's White Paper, released on June 5, 1988, backed off the Green Paper's earlier suggestion to add five new gTLDs. Instead, the White Paper proposes that the new corporation would be the most appropriate body to make decisions as to how many, if any, new gTLDs should be added once it has global input, including from the study called for in the Leahy-Ashcroft domain name bill. Specifically, the White Paper calls upon the World Intellectual Property Organization, *inter alia*, to "evaluate the effects, based on studies conducted by independent organizations, such as the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, of adding new gTLDs, and related dispute resolu-

tion procedures on trademark and intellectual property holders."

I commend the Administration for the deliberate approach it has taken to facilitate the withdrawal of the U.S. government from the governance of the Internet and to privatize the management of Internet names and addresses. We should have a Hippocratic Oath for the Internet—that before we adopt any new regimen that affects the Internet, we should make sure we are doing no harm to this dynamic medium.

In order for the WIPO study to be able to evaluate the effects, based on studies conducted by independent organizations, such as the NRC, of adding new gTLDs and related dispute resolution procedures on trademark rights, the Leahy/Ashcroft domain name study legislation in H.R. 3332 instructs the NRC to release an interim report that can be considered before the release of the March 1, 1999 WIPO study. I believe it beneficial, however, for the final report of the NRC to still be released after the WIPO study, so that the NRC can take into account the results and recommendations offered by the WIPO study and offer its comments on the WIPO study.

One might ask whether the NRC report is necessary, given the fact that WIPO will also be doing a study. I believe that the answer is a resounding "yes". Since the Internet is an outgrowth of U.S. government investments carried out under agreements with U.S. agencies, major components of the DNS are still performed by or subject to agreements with U.S. agencies. Examples include assignments of numerical addresses to Internet users, management of the system of registering names for Internet users, operation of the root server system, and protocol assignment. Although U.S. government management of the Internet's most basic functions will soon be phased out, it is still not clear who will be running the new nonprofit corporation which, according to the Administration's White Paper, will oversee the domain name system. Moreover, the U.S. leads the world in the creation and dissemination of intellectual property. Given the U.S. interests that are at stake and the uncertainty in who will run the domain name system and how it will affect U.S. stakeholders, I think it important that a U.S. entity examine the issue of adding new gTLDs and related dispute resolution procedures on trademark rights. As important as it is for WIPO to benefit from an objective U.S. entity's perspective on this matter, I also think that an objective U.S. entity should be tasked with considering whatever recommendations are issued by WIPO.

I am therefore pleased that the Senate passed H.R. 3332 last night with the Leahy/Ashcroft domain name study bill.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday,

October 8, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,540,550,647,696.94 (Five trillion, five hundred forty billion, five hundred fifty million, six hundred forty-seven thousand, six hundred forty-seven dollars and ninety-four cents).

One year ago, October 8, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,413,433,000,000 (Four trillion, four hundred thirteen billion, four hundred thirty-three million).

Five years ago, October 8, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,400,578,000,000 (Four trillion, four hundred billion, five hundred seventy-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$1 trillion—\$1,133,917,649,475.23 (One trillion, one hundred thirty-three billion, nine hundred seventeen million, six hundred forty-nine thousand, four hundred seventy-five dollars and twenty-three cents) in just 5 years.

#### ROBERT DIBBLEE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take just a moment to note the departure later this month of my Administrative Assistant, Robert Dibblee. Robert has served as my chief of staff for four years. He previously served a number of years with our former colleague, Senator Jake Garn.

He has been my right-hand man, not only in running my office—running my life actually—but also on key land policy issues affecting Utah. I have really come to rely on him for advice and counsel as well as for accomplishing the myriad of tasks that face a Senate office.

I want to use this public forum to recognize and thank Robert for his tireless efforts behind the scenes to keep the Utah Schools and Lands Exchange Act, just passed by the Senate, on track. From the day he arrived on my staff in 1993, I knew he would make my priority his own. I should mention that the first iteration of this legislation was my bill, S. 184, introduced during the 103rd Congress. The bill was enacted into law; but, unfortunately, the required land appraisals were never carried out by the Interior Department. And, the presidential designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996 doubled the number of acres of trust land that needed to be offset or compensated.

Robert has worked practically on a daily basis on this issue with the Utah governor's office, the Interior Department, members and staff of the Senate Energy Committee, and with the staff of my colleagues in the Utah delegation, particularly Congressman JIM HANSEN, without whose assistance as chairman of the House Resources Subcommittee we could not have passed the bill today.

During this final week, Robert worked to break several logjams that could have sunk this legislation. Throughout the consideration of this bill, he has been a steady and reliable guide for this all-important bill to support education in Utah.

Robert is moving on to be Vice President for Government Relations for the National Association of Independent Insurers. So, I say to my colleagues who do not yet know him: you will. And, you will appreciate working with him as much as I have. Robert Dibblee is a stand-up guy who does what is right and honorable; he won't try to pull the wool over your eyes; and he follows through on his commitments.

I will miss having him as an integral part of my team, but I wish him well in this new, challenging assignment.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR WENDELL FORD

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, when this Congress adjourns the Senate will lose its distinguished Minority Whip, the senior Senator from Kentucky, WENDELL H. FORD. WENDELL FORD has earned a reputation as the Senate's leader on aviation matters, and has long been one of the most influential members of the Senate on energy and election reform issues. He has battled for campaign finance reform legislation and led the fight for the "motor voter" bill which has expanded voter registration across the country.

There is no member of the Senate more well-liked by his colleagues than WENDELL FORD. However, I have often thought that one of the true measures of a Senator is how she or he relates to staff members, workers and other visitors to our nation's capital. WENDELL FORD is among the most beloved.

I think back to one particular incident. A member of my staff had brought his 5-year old son to work for the day. The staff member, needing to attend an important meeting, left his son to play with paper, crayons and stapler, under the supervision of several co-workers. He returned to find his son no longer at the desk where he had been left. A quick search followed. The young boy was found just outside the office in the Senate hallway where he had stopped Senator WENDELL FORD and attempted to sell him a book (artful pages of crayon scribbles, stapled together) for a nickel. Senator FORD was in the act of earnestly requesting two and trying to convince the young man to accept a dime as superior to the requested nickel.

Last March, WENDELL FORD became the longest serving senator from Kentucky in the history of the U.S. Senate when he surpassed another beloved Kentuckian, Alben Barkley.

WENDELL FORD is unsurpassed in many things: He is unsurpassed in his love of family, love of country and love of the U.S. Senate. He is unsurpassed in his efforts to be helpful to new members. How many times he has set aside personal needs or took the time to help newcomers to this body to weather the self doubts or maneuver through the complex procedures.

WENDELL FORD is unsurpassed in his commitment to the hard working families whom are the backbone of this na-

tion and in his passion for the "little guy".

Mr. President, to me, the story I told of the little boy in the Senate hall characterizes WENDELL FORD. WENDELL is a genuine, kind, straight-forward and thoughtful man as well as an effective national leader. All of us in the United States Senate and our families will miss the inimitable WENDELL FORD and his wife, Jean.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR DAN COATS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, when the Congress ends, Senator DAN COATS of Indiana will retire from the Senate. DAN COATS and I have served together on the Armed Services Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

On the Armed Services Committee, DAN COATS has served ably as the Chairman of the Airland Forces Subcommittee. He is a forceful proponent of a strong national defense and has consistently supported efforts to assure that our men and women in the military remain the best trained and equipped in the world.

Although DAN COATS was one of the leading proponents in the Senate of the version of the line-item veto which was passed and signed into law, and I joined with Senators BYRD and MOYNIHAN in arguing in an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court that that legislation was unconstitutional, I greatly respected the diligence and integrity with which he fought that battle.

My friend from Indiana and I have worked together for several years to prevent our states and communities from becoming dumping grounds for solid waste from other areas of the country and outside the country. He has been a persistent advocate of giving states and local governments the power to stem the flow of garbage flooding into their jurisdictions. I would like to thank him for all he has done on this matter, hopefully paving the way to a resolution which will give more power to the people whose quality of life is being harmed by a free interstate flow of trash.

Mr. President, DAN COATS' outstanding service as a United States Senator came as no surprise to me or my constituents. He was born and raised in Jackson, Michigan and naturally this has prepared him, like most Michiganders, to excel in life. However, even though he has wandered off to Indiana, and wandered even further into the GOP, I have enjoyed the opportunities which I have had to work with DAN COATS and will miss his friendship next year.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR JOHN GLENN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, when the 105th Congress adjourns sine die in the next few days, the Senate will lose one of our nation's true heroes, and one of